

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 NEA-10 IO-14 ISO-00 AGR-20 AID-20 CEA-02

CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

OPIC-12 SPC-03 TRSE-00 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01

SS-20 NSC-10 L-03 H-03 TAR-02 STR-08 XMB-07 EURE-00

DRC-01 /206 W

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FM USMISSION OECD PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 916

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

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AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

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USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, OECD

SUBJECT: OECD NOVEMBER 8-9 XCSS MEETING: AGRICULTURE

REF: STATE 208338

1. SUMMARY. IN RESPONSE US VIEWS ON XCSS AGRICULTURE EXERCISE AND PAPER CONTAINED REFTEL, SECRETARIAT HAS ASKED FOR MORE DETAILED US THINKING ON SCOPE AND ORGANIZATION OF PROPOSED AGRICULTURAL STUDY AND ITS RELATIONSHIP TO WORK OF RESTRICTED EXPERTS GROUP. ACTION REQUESTED: MISSION (A) WOULD APPRECIATE RESPONSE TO SECRETARIAT'S QUESTIONS, AND (B) SUGGESTS INFO ADDRESSES REFTEL BE ASKED TO DELIVER AGRICULTURAL STUDY PAPER PROPOSAL TO HOST GOVERNMENTS. END SUMMARY.

2. IN ABSENCE OF SEC GEN VAN LENNEP FROM PARIS, CHARGE ON OCTOBER 22 CALLED ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL ABRAMOWSKI, WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR XCSS, TO PRESENT US VIEWS ON AGRICULTURAL AND INVESTMENT ACTIVITIES PER REFTEL AND STATE 208686. SIMANTOV, DIRECTOR FOR AGRICULTURE, WAS PRESENT FOR AGRICULTURE PART OF DISCUSSION. INVESTMENT DISCUSSION REPORTED SEPARATELY.

3. CHARGE REVIEWED REASONS FOR US PROPOSAL CONTAINED IN US PAPER. HE SAID HE WOULD BE PLEASED TO HAVE SECRETARIAT'S REACTIONS TO PAPER, BUT HE ASKED THAT PAPER BE DISTRIBUTED TO ALL DELEGATIONS AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. HE NOTED THAT US MISSIONS IN SIX CAPITALS WERE GIVING PAPER DIRECTLY TO GOVERNMENTS AND EC COMMISSION.

4. WITHOUT HAVING READ PAPER, SIMANTOV POSED QUESTION OF HOW US STUDY PROPOSAL WOULD DIFFER FROM RECOMMENDATIONS OF SECRETARY GENERAL'S EXPERTS GROUP WHICH MET OCTOBER 12. HE NOTED THAT SEVERAL DELEGATIONS (HE MENTIONED UK, SPAIN, SWITZERLAND, NEW ZEALAND) HAD GIVEN SEC GEN SOME DIFFICULTY REGARDING RESTRICTED EXPERTS GROUP.
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5. CHARGE SUGGESTED ADOPTION OF STUDY PROPOSAL BY ALL MEMBER COUNTRIES COULD DEFLECT ATTENTION FROM AND REDUCE OPPOSITION TO ACTIVITIES OF RESTRICTED EXPERTS GROUP. HE EXPRESSED VIEW THAT US STUDY PROPOSAL DIFFERED FROM WORK OF RESTRICTED EXPERTS GROUP IN SCOPE AND FOCUS, AND THAT INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS AMONG FIVE HIGH OFFICIALS WERE DIFFERENT IN CHARACTER FROM ANYTHING THAT MIGHT BE

ENVISAGED IN CONNECTION WITH INDEPENDENT EXPERTS STUDY.

6. SIMANTOV RAISED QUESTION OF SIZE OF GROUP TO CONDUCT STUDY AND MEANS OF CHOOSING AND SUPPORTING STUDY. HE AND CHARGE AGREED INDEPENDENCE OF STUDY COULD BE ASSURED ONLY IF OECD, RATHER THAN MEMBER GOVERNMENTS DIRECTLY, RECRUITED AND PAID MEMBERS OF STUDY GROUP. SIMANTOV ASKED WHETHER GROUP SHOULD BE SMALL (I.E., THREE OR FOUR) OR LARGE ENOUGH TO RESPOND TO WISHES OF ALL AREAS AMONG OECD MEMBER COUNTRIES FOR REPRESENTATION. A SMALLER GROUP, HE SAID, COULD PROBABLY BE ACCOMMODATED WITHIN PRESENT BUDGET BUT LARGE GROUP WOULD RAISE QUESTION OF ADDITIONAL RESOURCES.

7. IN SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATION WITH MISSION OFFICERS, SIMANTOV ALSO RAISED QUESTION RE COMPLETION DATE, CONTENDING THAT JUNE 30, 1974 IS TOO EARLY. HE PROPOSED DECEMBER 1974 INSTEAD. MORE IMPORTANTLY, SIMANTOV IS THINKING IN TERMS OF SECRETARIAT DEVELOPMENT OF THE STUDY, WORKING WITH A GROUP OF EXPERTS AS NOTED. IT IS NOT CLEAR TO US WHETHER THE US MAY INSTEAD CONTEMPLATE COMMISSIONING OUTSIDE ORGANIZATIONS OR FIRMS TO OBTAIN THE EXPERTISE AND INDEPENDENCE DESIRED. IF THIS IS THE CASE, WE SUGGEST ADDITIONAL CLARIFICATION REGARDING WAYS AND MEANS, BOTH FINANCIAL AND PROFESSIONAL, OF THE US PROPOSAL IN PREPARATION FROM THE NOVEMBER 8-9 MEETING.

8. SINCE TRANSLATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF US PAPER WILL TAKE SEVERAL DAYS, MISSION SUGGESTS INFO ADDRESSEES OF REFTEL BE INSTRUCTED TO PROVIDE TEXT TO HOST GOVERNMENTS, BELIEVE EARLIER DISTRIBUTION OF TEXT, PARTICULARLY TO INTERESTED GOVERNMENTS LIKE NEW ZEALAND AND AUSTRALIA, WOULD IMPROVE CHANCES THAT PROPOSAL WILL RECEIVE SERIOUS CONSIDERATION AT NOVEMBER 8-9 XCSS MEETING.

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